

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Gatling called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant (LATE ARRIVAL 7:16PM), Councilmember Darrell Hardy (ABSENT), Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha A. Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator and Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk, Tim McNeil, Special Assistant, Samuel Prue, Chief of Police, Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works,

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Stephenson

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted with the following modification:

- 8.2 Reading of Card

It was motioned by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Yeargin to approve the agenda with modifications. The motion carried.

1.1.5. Reading and Approval of January Regular Work Session, Special Session and Public Session Meeting Minutes.

It was motioned by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the minutes. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved by the City Council.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1. NONE

3. LEGISLATION:

- Ordinance 10-05 Budget Amendment FY2009-2010- Introduced by City Council on Monday, February 22, 2010 and the first reading was declared, and the second reading was held on Monday, March 8, 2010. It was motion by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve Ordinance O-10-05. The motion carried
FOR: Gatling, Porter, Raynor, Simms, Stephenson and Yeargin
AGAINST: None
ABSTAIN: None

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4. REPORTS:

4.1 Mayor's Report- Eugene W. Grant, Mayor

- Mayor Grant reported that he has report for two months, and stated that the Mayor is a ceremonial head for the City and does not make decision regarding the day to day operation. He admonishes Mr. Ashton for holding two positions down.
- Feggans Center-He thanked the Council for allowing him to head the Development Committee. The contractor solicited in the RFP development committee for review, Dewberry, Arel and Cyntrelink. Mr. Sussman has reviewed the contracts to be submitted back to the contractors. We were moving forward to be prepared for the Bond bill hearing.
- Solar Panel Grant-His office went after a grant to replace the solar panel and the grant has been approved for City Hall.
- Judge Glenda Hatchett, we secured a commitment from her office. She launched her program, which launched from a "City of Excellence" Parent Power NOW. The event was held on Monday, February 22, 2010 at the Seat Pleasant Elementary school. The parents and residents needs to applaud the efforts in support of the School for volunteering, monetary support for the students. We cleared off the sidewalks for the children to arrive to school safely after they opened following the snow storm.
- UMD-He had a meeting to coordinate an event to fund initiative and health outcome in the City of Seat Pleasant. We must address the issue with HIV spreading in the community even among the seniors. Prostate and Breast Cancer, including renal clinic. We must be very vigilant in our pursuit to ensure that resources are coming into the City.

- Senator Mikulski's came to launch the program on fraud alert with Neighbor Works on the Loan Remodification scam. He met with the Senator to request for 5million dollar for the restoration of the Feggans Center site. We are projecting about 5million dollar. It will be three buildings in one, senior, town hall, and youth. Failure to comply with the standard places the Seat Pleasant Police Department as decertified. We must be aware of the responsibility of having a department. They must be trained, and re-trained.
- He attended the Governors State of the State address in Annapolis. He had the opportunity to speak with him on behalf of municipality, in specific Seat Pleasant.
- Vice President Biden had invited him to his home, and he spoke with him on the American Recovery Reinvestment Act, as he has been appointed over the project.
- Weatherization Assistance Services he investigated the program and found multiple problems. It is very difficult to speak with someone on the county level. The applicants who are receiving social services may not qualify for the program.
- They have an income limit and applicant must make above 150% of the program income level, but not more 200% of the stated income. Many of the residents do not qualify based on their income. We need to analyze these programs due to the stumbling block. The WAPP Program was to include jobs in the community. We are unable to get a report. The contractors selected aren't from the county, thus the residents aren't able to be hired.
- He has requested a meeting with the County Executive regarding the above issues. His assistant has met with his staff with unsatisfactorily answers.
- Broad Band should receive a higher priority, broad band isn't a major option, but the adoption of the broadband does effect. Once our website is up and running for residents to make a request online of the code, file a complaint, pay your taxes etc. We need to ensure that the resident of Seat Pleasant has these services available.
- Census 2010-We attended a signing with Congresswoman Edwards in January. Ms. Rhoda is working with Ms. Simms, and the hardest people to get to fill out the forms aren't Latino it will be African American Men.
- We need to leverage our money, we aren't a large municipality. Our full budget isn't 3.2 billion, when the largest portion of the budget goes to the Police Department, and second largest is Public Works. He believes in paying a labor worthy of his hire. You get what you pay for.

- M-NCCP to install solar grant application for energy of the Activity Centers. He submitted a letter of support.
- We have 50 slots available with UMD to participate with training program in football. They will be providing transportation to the residents from ages 8-13
- Residents have sustained cracks in their walls due to heavy trucks. The Council may want to change the weight capacity of the trucks on the road.
- We have provided letters of support to delegate and senate house on behalf of the bond bills for the Feggans Center.

4.2. Council President- LaTasha Gatling, Councilmember-At-Large

- Councilmember Gatling stated that her report is on the table and the residents can read it quietly

4.3 Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department-Kevin Brenner, Deputy Chief

- We have reduced our career fire fighters, but we have all volunteers staffing the Seat Pleasant Fire Department. It is mainly staffing on holidays. We are actively recruiting volunteers and training. March total calls are 805 combined 1464 Year to Date, January 3039 volunteer hours for the month. We responded to two fires in Seat Pleasant on January 6th and January 13th. Thank the Department of Public Works for assisting us during the blizzard on February 5 and February 8. There have been several fires that were suspicious. We have several fund raisers with Baskin & Robbins, and we look forward to Seat Pleasant Day. We are trying to get our hall up and running. We will be selling t-shirts, but we are very grateful of your donations. We are going after grants under the ARRA.
- Councilman Yeargin commended the Public Works Department for their efforts during the blizzard.

4.4 Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator-

He wanted to report on five areas

- Dual Tax System-Where you have a different tax rate for land in Seat Pleasant, and repairs. This will be a tax incentive system. We are looking to do green initiatives, and we are looking at a way to come up with ways to cover the initiatives.
- Tax Credit-The Homestead exemption tax credit forms are due on April 1, 2010
- Home Owners Tax Credit is due on June 30, 2010, which will give you a break on your home depending on income.
- Relief on Snow Removal for the State of Maryland to declare this area as a federal disaster area. There are claim forms that individual may use to file

with the State of Maryland due to disconnect of services surrounding the state of emergency.

- We have received \$68,500.00 for the police department to receive their radios.

4.5 Tiara Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer

- Ms. Andrews was absent, but submitted a written report (see attached)

4.6. Robert Ashton, City Treasurer

- Mr. Ashton combined the City Administrator report with the Finance Department Report. (See 4.6 Below)

4.7 Samuel Prue, Chief of Police-

- The police department is looking for ways to maximize the services. We are working seven days a week with the officers we have on staff.
- The state police commission will be auditing the police department. We passed the audit on January 4, 2010.
- He has adjusted the administrative staff from 9:00am-9:00pm, and on Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm for vehicle release, reports, etc.
- He has dual certified some of the officers due to shortage. He has one officer out for training in the next two weeks. He will be sending officers to investigative training, and firearms training.
- The Public Works Department has been working on the cars that were down at the Feggans Center. We will be using them as a back up to our current fleet, or sell them to Fairmount Heights.
- Update on Fire-He feels that some of the home fires are the caused by the use of candles. The gas station will be warned with an investigation.
- Councilwoman Simms has commended the police department, but has some concerns with several requests from the Code Enforcement Officer. She wants the properties on the record that are a big nuisance to the Community.
- Councilman Yeargin has requested that the police department look into the commercial lots

4.8. Johnny Thompson, Public Works Director

- Mr. Thompson read the written report from the table (See attached)

5. CITIZEN COMMENT

Koko Barnes, 6195 Central Avenue, Seat Pleasant,-The property on James Farmer Way settled on March 5, 2010. She stated the article in the gazette regarding the \$200,000 uncollected funds does not relate to mismanagement. She has met with the County Executive office and Councilwoman Donna Edwards's

office. It would be a better use of service if “we” could communicate. She would like to request more cooperation from the Council and the Mayor.

Wilhelmina Evans, 617 64th Avenue, Seat Pleasant-Ms. Evans stated that she is concerned about the Ward II, as she doesn't get any mail from the City. She lives alone and sees a lot of things, but she doesn't feel she can call and report the incidents. She needs someone to talk to the people in Ward II. She has called City Hall for Mrs. Lanham, and don't think they are giving me my messages.

Amanda Feggans, 300 69th Place, Seat Pleasant-Mrs. Feggans stated that she has inquired about the hiring of a City Administrator five months ago. It's hard for one person to handle two top jobs. Council President Gatling explained the status to Mrs. Feggans. She was happy to hear of the good things in the Police Department. She has a problem with not being able to get the councilmember cell phone numbers. Delegate Benson mother funeral didn't have any representation or proclamation from the City.

Eugene F. Kennedy, 6110 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant-Mr. Kennedy thanked the council for the calls and the card regarding the loss of his brother. The accident at Addison & Central at the light, as well as Martin Luther King, Jr Highway & Addison has occurred due to the light he has been asking the council to have corrected with signal. He hopes the Mayor begin to take you all to the meeting he attends. It shows you all are working together. The sidewalks need to be cleaned.

Michael Stephenson, 600 64th Place, Seat Pleasant-Mr. Stephenson stated that he has a problem with the speeding on G Street. They don't stop at the stop signs on 64th or Greig Street. When the officers are present they don't speed. Council President Gatling explained that the speed camera can only be installed in the municipality within a school district.

James Wright, 500 70th Street, Seat Pleasant-Mr. Wright stated the next meeting will be held next week. They will be holding a race on the Senator, Delegate and County Council seats. Seat Pleasant needs a Farmers Market, as the Obama administration is listing certain areas as food deserts.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1 NONE

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 NONE

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1. Feggans Center Bond Bill Hearing, Saturday, March 13, 2010, Annapolis, MD, 9:00am-3:00pm. Please call City Clerk to attend the hearing and show your support. All residents MUST register by Thursday, March 11, 2010

8.2. Reading of Card-Council President read the Thank You Card given by Mrs. Marshall.

ADJOURN-It was motioned by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:18p.m.

Submitted by,

Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk